

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: LECOMTE et al

Serial No.:

Filed: September 22, 2001

For: Process For Pretreating A Natural Gas Containing
Acid Gases

Group:

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 24, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of this application and prior to calculation
of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:Please amend the ~~claims~~ to read as follows:

A¹ 3. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in stage c), the gas phase
obtained in stage b) is cooled by means of an expander.

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein:

e) at least one of the gas phases obtained in stage c) and in stage d) is
compressed by using the energy recovered from the expander.

A² 6. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in stage c), the gas phase
obtained in stage b) is cooled by means of a venturi neck, said liquid phase being

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